

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/719,141

Examiner

Ha D. Ho

Applicant(s)

SHIBUYA, KEISUKE

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Application filed 11/20/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3 and 6.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/765,762.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/20/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Preliminary Amendment filed on 11/20/03. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been canceled, and claim 2 has been amended accordingly.

2. Claims 2, 3 and 6 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for an automobile transmission as defined by the limitations of claim 2, including a transmission case accommodating a main shaft, a counter shaft, a drive shaft and a front differential, an extension case connected to the rear end of the transmission case for accommodating a center differential, which distributes a driving force to front and rear wheels, wherein the counter shaft is provided below and in parallel with the main shaft, the drive shaft is provided below and in parallel with the counter shaft, the front differential is provided at a front end of the drive shaft, the center differential is provided at a rear end of the counter shaft.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Cited Prior Art

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Hirayabu'134, Matsumoto'437, Umemoto'580, Kobayashi'305, and Fukui et al.'005

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which each shows a transmission for a four-wheel-drive vehicle including a main shaft, a counter shaft, a front differential, and a rear differential.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ha D. Ho whose telephone number is (703) 305-0738. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

Ha Ho 04/15/04

Ha Ho
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681